

# RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

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VOL. I No. 1

OCTOBER 1970

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*RUTLAND — 1852. The intersection of West and Main Sts. (above, looking southeast) was the heart of the business area of 19th Century Rutland until after 1848 when the railroad came to Rutland and the center of business activity began to move west into the present downtown area. The large building on the left is now occupied by the Lindholm Sport Center. The building with the dome is the old Courthouse which was built in 1792 and later burned.*

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH**

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PARLOR**

**7:30 P.M.**

**PUBLIC INVITED**

# THE CHALLENGE OF VERMONT COINS

As citizens of Vermont as well as of Rutland we need to know all we can of our state, which is unique in many ways. In 1791 Vermont became the first new state to join the original members of the United States. The association was natural as her Green Mountain Boys had fought side-by-side with New England soldiers at Hubbardton and Bennington and in Canada in the same cause of freedom. But Vermont fought as an independent Republic, having first to win her own freedom from domination by New York State. In 1777 she had founded her own stable government based on what has been lauded by many as a model constitution (manhood suffrage and no slavery in Vermont). During the fourteen years from 1777 to 1791 she had maintained her own standing army of defense. She ran her own mail routes which joined the mail system of the United States in Albany, established schools, including the University of Vermont in 1791, and also issued currency. Not many of these early Vermont coins are now in existence, but Bennington Museum owns a few, some of which will be shown to us at our Annual Meeting, October 15, by Mr. Eugene R. Kosche, Registrar and Assistant Curator of the Bennington Museum, who undoubtedly knows as much as anyone about their history and design.

Mr. Kosche's home is in the historic village of Shaftsbury. He is a trustee of the Shaftsbury Historical Society, a trustee of the United Counseling Service of Bennington County, and has been closely associated with the Bennington Free Library and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Association of Bennington. Mr. Kosche's other historical interests include antique guns and antique cars.

BERENICE R. TUTTLE



*HOW VERMONTERS MADE MONEY.* Above are two early Vermont coins. On the left, Vermont sovereignty is expressed by the designer of the coin. On the right, Vermont's aspirations to become the fourteenth state of the United States is demonstrated by the Latin inscription "Stella Quarta Decima" (the fourteenth star) surrounding the thirteen stars and thirteen rays.



*The above photograph was found in Bethel, Vt. It was taken at the H. C. Moore Photographic Studios in Springfield, Mass. It is undated. Are these men who support the Rutland banner some of ours? Or do they come from Rutland, Mass.?*

The Rutland Historical Society is most happy to receive all kinds of gifts of historic interest to the people of Rutland. At this time the Society is most anxious to receive photographs of Rutland scenes and Rutland people, formal or informal. For those who wish to retain a valuable picture, the Society would be pleased to receive permission to copy the photograph and exhibit it. It is hoped that future issues of the Newsletter may continue to show life in Rutland in by-gone years.

Do you have historic materials of Rutland to give, to exhibit or to loan? Call Louise Adams, 773-9214, for further information.

Interested in becoming a member of the Rutland Historical Society? Call Barbara Mellow, 775-5830, for further information.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

In accordance with the by-laws of the Rutland Historical Society, the annual meeting and election of officers will be held Thursday evening at 7:30, October 15th at the Congregational Church Parlor on Court Street.

A nominating committee has selected a slate of nominees to fill the offices of President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors who will serve for two years. Directors whose term expires at this time are: Milford Smith, Nicola Marro and Bennett D. Bell. A Director to serve for one year will also be selected to serve the remaining term of a resigning Director.

The agenda:

Reports of Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman of Board of Directors, and the Annual Report of the President.

Election of officers and directors by secret ballot.

Other business as may be brought up.

Speaker: Eugene Kosche of the Bennington Museum.

### To: THE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

The following nominations are submitted for your consideration:

President:	James S. Davidson
Vice President:	Mrs. Percy W. Adams
Secretary:	Mrs. Ernest E. Ruppe
Treasurer:	F. Robert Robinson

Members of the Board of Directors for two years 1970 - 1972

Bennett D. Bell  
Judge Milford E. Smith  
Frederic P. Elwert

Member of the Board of Directors for one year 1970 - 1971

Napoleon M. Lamar

The incumbent members of the Board are Mayor Harold J. Nichols  
Norman E. Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Mellow  
James S. Davidson  
Louise N. Adams  
Nominating Committee

Rutland, Vermont  
September 22, 1970

## WHO'S WHO

*Judge Milford Smith* of 88 Church St. is a Director of the Rutland Historical Society and has a particular interest in the early Indians of Vermont. He has an excellent collection of Indian artifacts and has addressed the Rutland Historical Society on the topic of "Early Indians in Vermont."

*Fred Elwert* of 19 Crescent St., President of the Rutland Historical Society, is a professional book-dealer with an interest in most items of Vermontiana. Fred has addressed the Rutland Historical Society on the career and contributions of the late Charles V. S. Borst of The Charles Tuttle Company.

## What's Where

The Rutland Free Library and the College of St. Joseph the Provider Library have acquired microfilm copies of the original manuscript population schedules of Rutland County from 1790 to 1880. These census schedules may be used at these libraries. The Rutland Free Library is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Mon.-Fri. and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sat. The College of St. Joseph Library is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sun.-Fri. and from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sat.

Persons tracing families in the Rutland area will find these acquisitions most helpful. From 1850 - 1880 the census provides a great deal of information on each individual in a household.

## WHO KNOWS

(1) — about the arrival of contestants in 1886 horse race from Galveston, Tex., to Rutland, Vt. ? We would be especially interested in pictures or descriptions of the arrival of contestants although any information may be helpful.

(2) — any details about Erastus Bowe who reportedly lived in Rutland some time prior to 1817? He was the founder of Tiffin, Ohio. Any information would be appreciated.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

### *Report of the President of the Rutland Historical Society 1969-1970:*

As we pass our first birthday we can truthfully say, "It could have been worse." This may seem pessimistic but it really is an outgrowth of the general feeling of optimism which inspired some thirty charter members in the late summer of 1969 and which led your president to feel that a realistic goal for the first year would be to settle the Society in a home of its own by the fall of 1970.

Housing committee members sought quarters in the Rutland Free Library and in the "old fire station" on Nickwackett Street, and were unsuccessful in both instances. An attempt was made to rent suitable quarters in a house at the corner of Burnham and North Main Streets but considerations of economics caused this plan to be dropped. Search for a home continues, the next step being to ask the City of Rutland to purchase a building for us.

Meetings of the Society have been held at intervals, in accordance with the provisions of our by-laws. A talk by Director Milford Smith featured his fine collection of Indian artifacts of early Vermont. A talk by Joe Jones on the early development of skiing in the Rutland area was also interesting.

The Society sponsored a window display through the co-operation of the Rutland Savings Bank. This display featured the editorial career of Charles V. S. Borst. Further displays in store windows are planned as a means of furthering public understanding of our function as an historical society. There is pressure to grow and expand our activities. The City of Rutland has appropriated \$1000 for us to supply the City with the services of an historical society in 1970-1971. The amount of this appropriation is predicated on our possession of a home. Without a home this financial support must be increased. All members are urged to support the Society's request for a city-owned home.

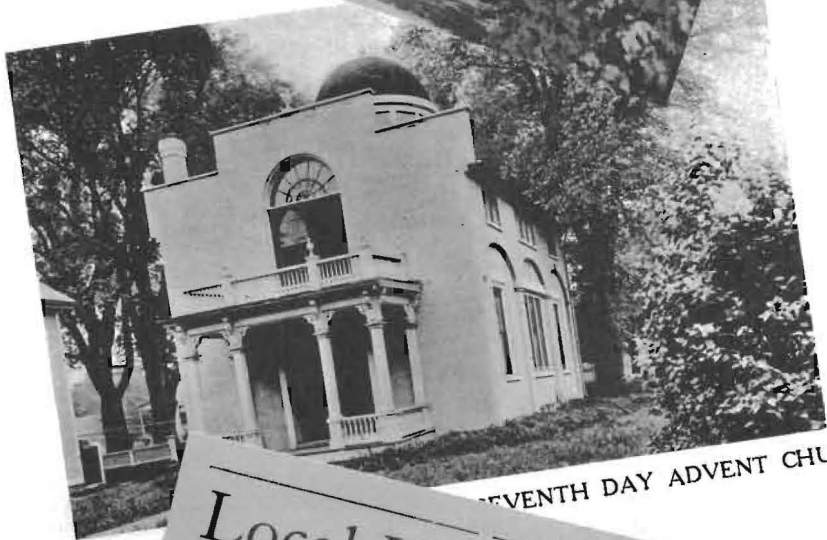
FRED ELWERT

## ***WILL THIS BE OUR NEW SOCIETY HOME?***





Old Rutland Bank, Rutland, Vt.



SEVENTH DAY ADVENT CHURCH.

## Local Historical Society Seeks a Church for Home

The Rutland Historical Society appealed to the Board of Aldermen Monday to provide it a home in the former Seventh Day Adventist Church on Center Street.

Frederic P. Elwert, speaking for the society, said the organization was not asking for an outright gift, and that if the city would buy the building, the society could pay off the cost with a capital funds drive.

The former church is more than 120 years old, Elwert said in a letter to the board, and it has a history of its own. It was once the office of the Rutland Savings Bank. The building is for sale, and the price is right, Elwert said.

Elwert's letter also noted that efforts to use the second floor of the Rutland Free Library or former Fire Station No. 2 were unsuccessful.

The Housing and Zoning Committee of the Board of Aldermen will study the matter and report back.

TO THE READER: This Autumn the Rutland Historical Society marks the completion of its first year of incorporation. The Rutland Historical was formed to preserve and make known the history of old Rutland, which includes Proctor, Rutland City, Rutland Town and West Rutland. It is hoped that this Newsletter may contribute to these goals by providing a medium of communication for all interested in the history of Rutland.

Therefore we welcome you to Volume I, Number 1, of the Rutland Historical Society *Newsletter*. All readers are invited to contribute items of interest although the editor must reserve all editorial rights.

James S. Davidson, Editor

*Picture Credits:*

BUILDINGS ON MAIN STREET, OLD RUTLAND BANK, AND SEVENTH  
DAY ADVENT CHURCH, Rutland Free Library;  
VERMONT COINS, Eugene Kosche;  
RUTLAND GROUP, Fred Elwert.

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SAVE THIS DATE Thursday, November 19, Lilian Baker Carlisle, author and authority on Vermont silver, will talk about Rutland silver and silversmiths at a meeting of the Rutland Historical Society.

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**RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
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